

In Luke 23 we read the story of the only man who spoke up for Jesus as he was being crucified, though virtually everyone else was abusing Him.

One of the criminals somehow knew that Jesus was innocent. After defending Him, he made an absolutely outlandish and audacious request of Him:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Think about the situation! What an inopportune time to desire membership into what would seem to be the most unlikely of kingdoms, as its leader hung dying on a cross!

This criminal was being totally sincere, as even through his tremendous agony he saw the Truth.

We must also be able to see this Truth through the evil that is in the world – and see that Christ is indeed a King! He seeks those with similar audaciousness, who pursue His Kingdom.

Jesus answered the man’s request,

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

He has promised that we as His followers will be with Him as well.

In the elements of this communion, we see Christ’s death on the cross just as the criminal did. But we can see further to His resurrection and as such we can truly celebrate Him as our King!